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(72) Inventor: Newman, Paul Bernard David
Okehampton, Devon EX20 3BT (GB)

(74) Representative: Stuart, Ian Alexander et al
MEWBURN ELLIS
York House
23 Kingsway
London WC2B 6HP (GB)

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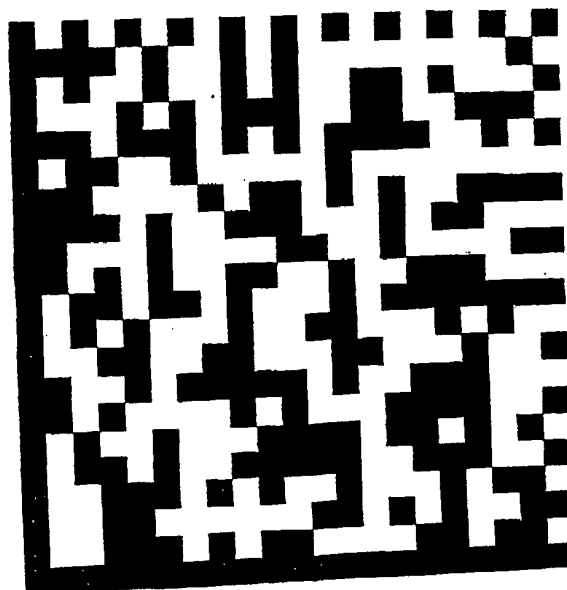
(71) Applicant: Newman, Paul Bernard David
Okehampton, Devon EX20 3BT (GB)

(54) Identification and tracking of articles

(57) Machine readable marks are applied to articles, particularly primal cuts of meat, preferably before removal from a carcass. They can thus be monitored during progress and data can be fed back to a central computer which may compute a value for the carcass. A pre-

ferred mark is a 3 x 3 matrix having two columns of coloured dots selected from colours representing 0,2,4,6 and 8; and a modifying column providing binary information indicating that 0 or 1 should be added to the values of adjacent coloured dots.

Fig. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	24 March 1999	van der Weiden, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>		



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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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